



**You Got Me!**  
**FTGA Wreath of Grass Award a Total Surprise**

When Tom Alex took the podium in Tampa to introduce the 2002 FTGA Wreath of Grass winner, I thought, "That's right they always present it at the annual luncheon. Wonder who it is this year?"

It only took a couple of sentences into his speech and I knew I was the one. There aren't too many folks who graduated from the U. of South Florida with a major in geology and made their way into the golf business via the U.S. Coast Guard and Orange County School System.

Tom roasted me well that day and the assembly was witness to an emotional acceptance speech.

The Florida turf business is amazing and usually underrated. The challenges are outweighed by the rewards. For my part it has fed, clothed, housed and educated me and my family, and given me opportunities to meet some of the most interesting people in the world. I am grateful that my peers have seen fit to pronounce my efforts in the industry worthy of this recognition. Thank you very much!

*Joel Jackson*

**Kevin Downing: President's Award for Lifetime Service**

I've known Kevin Downing for the better part of 16 years, first as a student, and then as a fellow superintendent. I never would have thought that I would one day be presenting him an award of any kind. Not that he is undeserving; I just never saw myself one day being president of a chapter and presenting an award to someone I always looked up to. I'm not going to say I want to aspire to be like him, because Kevin spends way too much time on association-related issues. He lives for this industry and the game of golf equally. If I spent a fraction of the time he spends, I'd be divorced.

Kevin's career began after he received his degree in golf course operations from Lake City Community College in 1975. His first job was superintendent at Oxbow Golf Club in



*Treasure Coast GCSA President John Morsut, left, presents President's Award for Lifetime Service to Kevin Downing, CGCS.*

Port Labelle from 1975-1978. From there he went on to Atlantis Golf Club in Lake Worth as superintendent from 1978-1982. It is here that he became a certified superintendent in 1980. In 1982 he accepted the superintendent's position at Mariner Sands Country Club in Stuart from 1982-1988. Finally, his last move was to the

Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart where he has been since 1988 as the golf and landscape manager. Kevin was responsible for overseeing the design and construction of the course initially and recently just finished a successful rebuild of the course from tee to green.

Besides being a superintendent, Kevin has a very creative side. He likes to be involved in golf course and landscape design. He has been involved in various projects with Architects Rees Jones, Gary Player, John Sanford and Arthur Hills.

Aside from his managerial responsibilities, his professional involvement includes being active on the Treasure Coast chapter board of directors where he has responsible for securing education for our monthly meetings for the past four years. He was president of the Florida GCSA in 1983 and continued serving as Research Committee chairman for nearly a decade. He also serves as the alternate voting delegate for the FGCSA at the GCSAA Annual Meeting. He also serves as a director in the Florida State Golf Association. He has served on numerous committees and resource groups for the GCSAA. Everyone knows him in Lawrence, Kan. I'm just surprised that he has never run for office at the national level.

His commitment to the game of golf is a very personal one. I should know. Whenever I am checking on things at my golf course during the evening, there's Kevin at the range working on his swing, analyzing every detail about it. He would ask me to stay and tell him where he is in his back swing. Yeah, me; a superintendent with a handicap of 28 helping a guy with a 7. Sorry Kevin, but that is a bit desperate.

I am glad to have been able to know and now work with Kevin. In him the industry truly has someone it can count on. The Treasure Coast chapter is lucky to have him as a member. I wish him all the best in the future and hopes he continues his commitment to the industry for all of our sakes.

*John A. Morsut*

*Editor's Note: Over the years I have come to admire and respect the passion Kevin has for our profession and his willingness to explore all the possibilities that lie before us. He is never short on ideas and enthusiasm for the industry he loves. Congratulations Kevin. This is a well deserved honor for a lifetime of service.*

**Kevin's Professional Affiliations**

- USGA Green Section Committee
- US Golf Association
- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
- National Golf Foundation
- Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Florida Turfgrass Association
- Florida Native Plant Society

**Achievements**

- Certified Golf Course Superintendent 1980
- President, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association 1982-83
- Consultant, National Golf Foundation 1986-87
- Vice-Chairman, Palm Beach County Amateur Golf Association 1988-93
- Recipient, Native Plant Society Award Martin County Chapter 1989
- FGCSA Distinguished Service Award 1990
- Speaker, PGA seminars on Golf Course Design and Construction 1989-94
- USGA Green Section Advisory Committee 1989-97
- Director, Florida State Golf Association 1996-Present
- Advisory Board, South Fork High School Golf Maintenance Training Program 1990-Present
- FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service 2002
- Continuous meritorious service on FGCSA, FTGA and GCSAA committees and resource groups throughout his career.
- Played or visited 70 of the 100 top-ranked golf courses.

**Chapter Round Up**  
**Calusa**

We regret to report that Mike Cantwell, GCS at Miromar Lakes passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 11 (see related article). On Nov. 19, the Calusa Chapter was the host for a three-chapter meeting as members of the Everglades and Suncoast Chapters joined them at Edison Community College in Ft. Myers to hear Hannes Combest of the GCSAA review the upcoming changes and requirements resulting from the Professional Development Initiative.

**Central Florida**

Congratulations to Joel Jackson, CGCS on receiving the FTGA

Wreath of Grass Award at the Conference and Show in Tampa last September. On Dec. 9, the Annual Past Presidents Outing was scheduled to be hosted by John Kopack, GCS at the Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes.

Following a round of golf the past presidents and the current board members will sign Christmas cards to the chapter members and have dinner together.

Wayne Hosid, Fla. Dept. of Agriculture, will make a presentation on pesticide labeling at the Dec. 16 meeting at the new Mystic Dunes G.C., Jason Moore is the GCS host.; Kicking off the 2003 season Jan. 13, the chapter will hold its annual superintendent/club official scramble tournament to raise FTGA research funds at Stuart Leventhal's Interlachen CC. Guest speaker John Foy will give an update on ultradwarf grasses. Chris Cartin, former superintendent recently promoted to general manager, will host the chapter's annual superintendent/vendor tournament at the Deltona Hills G&CC Feb. 24.

**Everglades**

The chapter hosted an environmental education fundraiser for the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed at Bonita Bay East on Oct.



*EGCSA President Jim Leiseberg (right) presents a \$9,000 check to CREW Executive Director Ellen Lindblat at the Environmental Education Fundraiser held at Bonita Bay East. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

5. At the end of the day EGCSA President Jim Leiseberg handed CREW Executive Director Ellen Lindblat a check for \$9,000. Pelican Sound's River Club hosted an ACSP Workshop on Dec. 2 to kick off a series of four workshops designed to get courses on the path to certification. The EGCSA and TESTA 2002 panel discussion was at Jason DiMartino's Audubon CC on Dec. 12. A panel of four superintendents and four equipment managers fielded questions from superintendents, equipment managers, mechanics, and

vendors in the audience.

Although the LCCC Endowment Fund Tournament isn't an official chapter function, it is organized and run primarily by EGCSA members and takes place in southwest Florida. Roy Bates announced that this year's event at Jason Brod's Raptor Bay G.C. raised \$15,000 for Lake City Community College. The committee consisted of David Fry, Glenn Zakany, Scott Hamm, John Johnson, Brod, Bates, Mike Smith and Odell Spainhour. Bates added that the success of the event, besides the obvious fantastic support by sponsors, was the hard work and effort by David Fry and WCI Communities, Inc.

**North Florida**

The September meeting of the NFGCSA was held at Lake City Community College. The chapter chartered a bus and visited the Golf Course Operations program at Lake City Community College. After a tour by John Piersol of the facilities for golf course management, turf equipment technicians, irrigation certification and forestry management, the group teed it up at the Lake City Country Club. The take-home message: Chapters can help

Lake City continue to train excellent future superintendents by participating in career days at their local high schools. Congratulations to Chris Neff for having the Timaquana Country Club in great shape for the 2002 U.S. Senior Amateur Championships. The USGA gave Chris a big "thumbs up" on the excellent conditions. This year's Christmas tournament will be at the Ponte Vedra Club and hosted by Jay Reister.

**Palm Beach**

The Chapter won the Cavanaugh Cup five-and-two at the annual joint meeting with the TCGC-SA. Mike Perham, CGCS will host the Chapter's Holiday Golf Outing at Jonathans Landing. In November, eight members of the chapter participated in a day-long spokesperson training program with communications consultant Dr. Tom Morgan. The program focused not only on how to deal with crisis communications, but how to work with the media to get out positive stories about golf. Eric Jorgenson hosted the Southeast Region ACSP Workshop at the Mizner GC on Dec. 3. The chapter's annual chartered bus trip to a Miami Dolphins football game was Dec. 15

**ALMAR™**  
Foliar Nutrients for TurfGrass

**THE POWER of Foliar Nutrition ...**  
Hyperspectral Turf Enhancer Program

**(800) 340-3888**

P. O. BOX 291370, TAMPA, FL 33687  
FAX (813) 988-0329

**North Georgia Turf, Inc.**  
"Providing Sodding and Sprigging Services to Golf Courses"

- Superior Cold Hardiness
- Superior Response to Close Tee and Fairway Mowing Heights
- Genetic Purity
- Mole Cricket Non-Preference

**'El Toro'**  
Zoysia

**For Fairways and Tees**

1487 Blackdirt Road  
Whitesburg, Georgia 30185  
**800-273-8608**

Ridge

Our new secretary/treasurer Clay Marshall, GCS of the River Greens GC in Avon Park hosted our October meeting to get some members in the South Ridge more involved. At the November meeting at Cleveland

GC thanks to Ridge President Mark Hopkins. In January Jeff Brown will spruce up the Lake Region Y&CC for our Superintendent/Vendor golf tournament. We will not have a February meeting due to the GCSAA conference in Atlanta. Our big fundraiser, the

will miss his friendship and support. World Woods GC will be the cover story for the FTGA Turf Digest's Jan/Feb 2003 issue. World Woods also recently hosted the finals of the Champions Tour Qualifying School, which kept IGM superintendents Mike Swinson, CGCS, David Younger (Pine Barrens) and Ryan Willis (Rolling Oaks) busy with tournament prep and overseeding grow-in. SugarMill Woods hosted the final 2002 ACSP workshop on Dec. 6. Buddy Keene of the Gainesville G&CC will host the December chapter meeting on Dec. 10.

Bob Harper led the SFGC-SA team of Jim Torba, Seth Strickland, Joe Pantaleo and Kelly Cragin to a convincing victory in the FGCSA Golf Championship at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City. For the past 17 years the SFGCSA has been a steadfast supporter of the work done by the Florida branch of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to the tune of \$150 in contributions. This year Florida Executive Director Nancy McBride announced the total has now reached \$177,000 thanks to the overwhelming success of the 18th Annual M&E Tournament at Dale Kuehner's Colony West C.C. The M&E committee



FTGA president and director of golf maintenance Bobby Ellis of ChampionsGate (red shirt) recently hosted a tour of his golf courses for the Hawaiian Ag Leadership Tour, which visited agriculture operations on the mainland. In Washington while visiting the USDA Office, one worker asked the group, "Hawaii has a governor, right?" Hmmm. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Heights GC in Lakeland hosted by Bob Solns, a technician from the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa did a skin cancer ID and prevention program. We held our traditional December meeting at the Harrell's Office in Lakeland with Jack Harrell, Sr. as our guest speaker. Then we enjoyed an afternoon of bowling for a change of pace. Our chapter Christmas outing will be at the Bartow

Ridge Invitational, will be March 3 at the Grasslands CC in Lakeland and we expect Roy Wilshire, CGCS will have the greens fast as usual.

Seven Rivers

We regret to report the death of our friend and founder Jeff Hayden (see related article). Jeff passed away at his home on Friday, Dec. 6. We

South Florida



The series of four ACSP workshops held around the state finished up at Sugar Mill Woods, GC in Homosassa Springs. Audubon International staff ecologist JoEllen Zeh and USGA's John Foy and/or Todd Lowe anchored each session. Speakers at Sugar Mill Woods included (from left): Buddy Keene, CGCS, Gainesville G&CC; Garth Boline, Chi-Chi Rodriguez G.C.; Jan Weinbrecht, UF/IFAS; JoEllen Zeh, A.I.; and John Foy, USGA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

UHS brand fertilizers are designed to meet the demanding agronomic needs of any turf professional. These products are built to perform best according to the local needs of the geographies we serve.



good

better



Our UHS Signature Brand Fertilizer "blue line" is comprised of products with the things you'd expect, such as quality and consistency. What sets these fertilizers apart is unique technologies, added performance and unmatched value.

Our premium offering is found in the UHS Signature Brand Fertilizer "green line" bag. These products feature the best nutrient sources available and are manufactured with an uncompromising eye to consistency and performance. The green bag guarantees ultimate nutritional benefits and turf quality for your fertilizer program.



best

Check with your local UHS rep for more details on our line of outstanding fertilizers  
(800) 457-0415 • fax (813) 664-0371

**United Horticultural Supply**  
www.uhsonline.com

members, Bill Entwistle, Bob Klitz, Bill McKee, Jim Goins, Dale Kuehner, Joe Pantaleo, Bryan Singleton, and Bill Rayside, were presented with plaques commemorating 18 years of support for NCMEC. SFGCSA members brought unwrapped Christmas presents for kids for the annual holiday party at Emerald Hills on Dec. 14.

### Suncoast

At the Annual Suncoast Grounds Maintenance Conference at



2003 Missing & Exploited Children Committee. SFGCSA Members from left: Bryan Singleton; Bill McKee; Jim Goins, CGCS; Dale Kuehner, CGCS; Joe Pantaleo and Bob Klitz, CGCS.

Selby Gardens, Dr. Jim Beard spoke on management of the new bermudagrasses and water resources. Dr. Ed Gilman of UF/IFAS spoke on tree care on golf



With everyone on the team scoring in the 70s, Bob Harper (center) captured low gross honors and led the South Florida Chapter team to a 13-shot victory over the rest of the field. (Left to right): Jim Torba, Seth Strickland, Harper, Joe Pantaleo and Kelly Cragin. Photo by Joel Jackson.

courses. Dr. Lee Bernt, Edison Community College spoke on "Pest Management to Enhance Water Quality" and EMT Scott Montgomery gave a presentation about medical emergencies on golf courses. Rhett Baugh hosted the annual Pro-Superintendent meeting and tournament at Lakewood Ranch C.C. Winners were Chip Copeman/Ted Green (62), Supplier/Supplier Mark Gulick/Paul Goff (5). Royce Steward will host the annual Suncoast Christmas Party at the Gasparilla Inn on Boca Grande Dec. 6-7. Talk about an ideal venue



### Country Club Services, INC.

Golf Course Renovation & Construction Planning

- Excavation and Grading
  - Drainage
- Greens Construction
  - Laser Grading
- Bunker Construction
- Athletic Field Construction
  - Grassing Services

William H. Wright, CGCS - President  
Robert Farina - Vice-president

749 NE 70th Street  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
(561) 862-0445  
Fax (561) 862-0447  
countryclubsvcs@aol.com

# UGLY UGLY UGLY



## There's no other way to describe **NEMATODE DAMAGE!**

Hendrix and Dail's new, patented product, TURFCURE 376™ controls turf-damaging nematodes with minimal turf damage and little or no chance of run-off or exposure to humans or wildlife. Our patented machine injects TURFCURE 376™ into the soil beneath the thatch layer with minimal surface disruption.

In today's world of rising environmental concerns and falling inventories of effective compounds, this is a bright spot. We have a proven, labeled, ready-to-go product with a patented, turf friendly machine. *Our staff is ready to help.*



### HENDRIX AND DAIL, INC.

7610 US Hwy 41 N., Palmetto, FL 34221  
800-726-5215  
www.hendrixanddail.com

**Treasure Coast**

The 2002 Blue Pearl, a premiere environmental project fundraiser was held on Sept. 23 at Mark Heater's Loxahatchee Club. The event raised \$15,500. NuCrane was again the presenting sponsor. There were tee gifts by Syngenta, Liquid Ag and Hector Turf. Winners were Gross Division - Roy McDonald, Mark Henderson, Gary Fischer and Roy Kimberly, Net Division - Fred Hinkle, Jason Riley, Mike Neary and Tim Cann. In October, Kevin Downing, CGCS was presented with a FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service at the TCGCSA/Palm Beach joint meeting. Congratulations and thanks Kevin for all the work you have done for the association. On Nov. 7-8 the chapter hosted a special program titled "Dealing with Activists" presented by Dr. Tom Morgan and Dr. Michael Coffman. The next day selected members of the TCGCSA board took part in Dr. Morgan's spokesperson training session which takes a small group of chapter leaders through the how's and why's of dealing with the media.

**West Coast**

39th Annual Bud Quandt Tournament - Guest Speaker was

GCSAA Past President Scott Woodhead, who now works as the director of membership for the GCSAA. Scott gave a presentation of all the services and programs available to GCSAA members to help them with their careers. Joel Jackson, gave an update on government-relations issues facing the FGCSA. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Environmental Turfgrass Research, All Children's Hospital, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and student scholarships.

At the November meeting, Matt Taylor is scheduled to give Monica Elliott's presentation on mole crickets and grubs and Todd Lowe, from the USGA, will be speaking to us about overseeding. As we move forward we plan to continue our promise to deliver quality education along with CEU's at as many meetings as possible. If anyone has any suggestions for speakers or would like to serve on the education committee please contact any board member.

We have scheduled a vendor appreciation day Dec. 5 at the USF athletic field. We would like to encourage all our members to bring their assistants and key employees to this fun day. Door prizes and a 50/50 drawing will



GCSAA Director of Membership Scott Woodhead (left) was the keynote speaker at the West Coast GCSA's Bud Quandt Fundraiser. Chapter President Jim Sharpe, CGCS is on the right. Photo by Joel Jackson.

be conducted throughout the day. Our affiliate members will have the opportunity to stage/set up any products and/or supplies they wish. There will be no cost for any of our members or employees to attend. A barbecue will be provided throughout the day that will be provided by the affiliate members attending and the FWCGCSA.

**Florida GCSA**

The Turf Research Account received a helpful boost with a \$5,000 donation by the Everglades Chapter at the fall board meeting at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando. "Over 150 attendees learned how to certify their courses at four statwide ACSP workshops held in

December. Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS made news by being tapped recently for FTGA Wreath of Grass and GCSAA Distinguished Service Award Honors. Secretary/Treasurer Dale Walters, CGCS has left the Royal Palm CC and taken a position with the Lesco Company. Since he is no longer a Class A superintendent he is not eligible to serve on the board. President David Court has appointed South Florida External Vice President Joe Pantaleo to fill Walter's office for the remainder of the year.



EGCSA's Dale Walters, CGCS (left) presented FGCSA President David Court, CGCS with a check for \$5,000 for the state's Turf Research Account

**Producers of Quality Turfgrasses**  
for Golf Courses and Athletic Fields

**Producers and Installers of Fumigated Georgia Certified Bermudagrasses**

- Tifway
- Tifdwarf
- TifSport
- Centipede Sod/Seed
- TifEagle
- Meyer Zoysia

**Pike Creek Turf inc.**  
Route 2, Box 376-A, Adel, Ga. 31620  
**1-800-232-7453**  
Rowplanting Services Available

**TTI**  
**Turf Technologies International**  
Turf Products Sales & Service  
Bryan Riddle - Mobile (561) 310-8482  
**1-800-432-2214**  
Distributors of Howard Greens Grade, Granular and Liquid Fertilizers

**PPA**  
**Professional Pesticide Applicators**  
Custom Chipco Choice Topical & Sub-surface Application  
Call now for 2002 Injection  
**1-800-432-2214**